

GREAT MEETING OF BUSINESS MEN

National Organization to
Secure Better Freight
Traffic

DELEGATES COME
FROM FAR AND WIDE

Washington State, Texas, Ohio,
New York, Arkansas, Georgia,
Illinois and Other Im-
portant Sections
Were Repre-
sented.

Perhaps the most important and in-
fluential gathering of business men
ever held south of Mason and Dixon's
line was that which assembled at the
Jefferson Hotel, in this city, yesterday
and organized the National Freight
Service Association.

The meeting was worked up quickly
through correspondence, conducted
largely by Messrs. T. Peyton Giles, of
the Stephen Putney Shoe Company,
and John Dorman, of the W. S. Don-
nan Hardware Company, both of Rich-
mond, and the delegates were actually
on the ground before either the public
or the transportation companies were
aware that they were coming.

The chief object of permanent or-
ganization is to interest the freight
shippers and receivers throughout the
United States in a systematic fight to
secure better and quicker transporta-
tion facilities through legislation or
otherwise, and nearly every great com-
mercial and industrial interest in the
country was represented.

Officers Elected.

At the afternoon session, when hours
had been devoted to discussion and a
free interchange of views, an organiza-
tion was perfected by the election of
the following officers:

President, T. Peyton Giles, Rich-
mond.

First Vice-President, John Dorman,
Richmond.

Second Vice-President, Douglas
Dallam, New York.

Executive Committee—John C.
Freeman (chairman), Richmond;

T. Johnson, Canal Dover, O.; V. H.
Heckman, Seattle, Wash.; E. D.
Taylor, Richmond; John Landstreet,
Richmond.

Legislative Committee—John S.
Harwood (chairman), Richmond;

S. P. Hester, Chicago; W. C. Rice,
Philadelphia.

Though there were only about forty
delegates actually present, they rep-
resented nearly every section of the
country, and all the great commercial
interests. Delegates came from Wash-
ington State, Texas, Arkansas, Georgia,
Ohio, Illinois, Virginia, Wisconsin,
Pennsylvania, New York, and other
States, and great business centres like
New York, Philadelphia, Milwaukee,
Seattle, Dallas, Chicago, Atlanta and
Richmond had delegates on the floor.

After the creation of the association
the executive committee was instructed
to fix the duties of the members at
once, and to employ a competent sec-
retary and treasurer to conduct the
correspondence and handle the funds.

Mr. T. Peyton Giles, of this city, who
has been most active in inaugurating
the movement, presided throughout the
meeting, both as temporary and per-
manent president, and Mr. John Dorman,
his faithful coworker, acted as secretary.

Morning Session.

The morning session was devoted
largely to a discussion of the railroads.
Mr. Giles called to order, and the
delegates were made up on the floor
under which the shippers are
laboring, and gave his ideas as to how
best to remedy these troubles.

"Conditions confronting the shippers
in this country," he said, "have been
unbearable, and the time has now
arrived when this subject should be
given the best thought of the mer-
chants and manufacturers towards its
solution."

Here Mr. Dorman read letters show-
ing the slow movement of freight in
different sections, and said this meant
the loss of hundreds of dollars to the
merchants.

"If congestion is their excuse," he
exclaimed, referring to the railroads,
"let them explain why it is that they
always manage to deliver promptly
carloads of fruit from California
or oranges from Florida, or any other
goods of a perishable nature, for while
they have to pay if spoiled; while hard
ware, drugs, dry goods and other non-
perishable freight are subject to such
unreasonable delays."

The Real Cause.

"No, gentlemen," the speaker con-
tinued, "the real cause of the delay is
not congestion, lack of equipment, or
that the freight trains do not move
sufficiently fast time with the
state shipments, but the fact that the
railroads hold goods in an unreasonable
time at the initial points before start-
ing."

At every junction, division, termi-
nal and transshipment point of their own
roads, shipments are held in the
scales, when our goods reach transfer
points on other roads, these delays are
more aggravated than ever. This last
and more serious delay is caused by
jealousy of railroad systems, one to-
wards the other, and by their attempt
to thwart each other's business by each
refusing to handle promptly shipments
which originated on their systems.

"The time has now arrived for us to
rise in our might, and I sincerely trust
that this body will not hesitate to have
its committee pass a series of the
strongest resolutions, for we have now
reached the critical period in our his-
tory."

"Therefore, unless the Interstate
Commerce Commission is granted by
Congress the power which we desire
with regard to this matter, the mer-
chants and manufacturers of this coun-
try will continue to be nothing more
than puppets in the hands of the rail-
roads, and it would be far better for us
to discontinue our business altogether
than to continue to suffer the intoler-
able conditions."

(Continued on Twelfth Page.)

NATION TO HONOR MEMORY OF LEE

President Roosevelt's
Suggestion to Be
Carried Out.

TO ERECT CHAIR OF
AMERICAN HISTORY

Entire Country Will Be Invited
to Participate in Establishing
Memorial to Southern
Chieftain—First
Meeting in
Richmond.

The joint committee from R. E. Lee
Camp, No. 1, Confederate Veterans,
and the Confederate Memorial Literary
Society that had in charge the ar-
rangements for the celebration of the
R. E. Lee centennial propose to con-
tinue their work along the lines sug-
gested by President Roosevelt in his
famous Lee letter. They believe the
time has come for the recognition by
the world at large of the heroic quali-
ties of the Southern chieftain, and
determined that this expression can
be most fittingly secured and per-
petuated in the endowment of a chair
of American history at Washington
and Lee University.

With a view to bringing the matter
to an issue, the joint committee has
called together the alumni and other
friends of the university, and a
meeting will be held in the hall of the
Chamber of Commerce this afternoon
at 5 o'clock. Dr. George H. Denny,
president of Washington and Lee, will
be in hand, and will present the matter
to the gathering. The joint com-
mittee consists of the following: rep-
resenting the Confederate Memorial Lit-
erary Society: Mrs. Kate P. Minor, Mrs.
James R. Werth, Mrs. T. A. Cary, Miss
M. P. Harris and Mrs. C. W. P. Brock,
and representing R. E. Lee Camp, No.
1, Confederate Veterans: Rev. James P.
Smith, Colonel W. E. Cuthbert, Mr.
Joseph Bryan, Judge George I. Chris-
tian, Rev. J. William Jones and Past
Commander James Vass. It was this
committee that organized the celebra-
tion of the centennial on the 19th of
last January, and their efforts were
with notable success, the observance
of that day being general and inspir-
ing, tributes to the character of Lee
being made in all parts of the country.

What President Said.

President Roosevelt added a notable
contribution to the orations and letters
of the day, closing his tribute
to Lee by saying:

"Such is the career that you
gather to honor; and I hope that
you will take advantage of the
one hundredth anniversary of Gen-
eral Lee's birth by appealing
to all our people, in every section
of this country, to do honor to
his life and deeds by the establish-
ment at some great representative
educational institution of the South
of a permanent memorial that will
be the center of the coming
years, as he is the center of the
past, and his life, devoted to the
service of his country, will be a
source of inspiration to all who
sincerely desire to do their duty."

In following out the suggestion of
the President, the committee felt the
importance of having entire uni-
fity in the selection of a chair of
American history, and after consider-
ing the matter in detail, it was con-
cluded that the most fitting place was
the college to which the President
alluded in his letter, and which he
now is. In this view, President
Dorman and other friends of the Uni-
versity of Virginia concur, as do those
interested in the proposed University
of Richmond, now in its infancy.

All to Unite.

The meeting this afternoon is intend-
ed as a conference as to ways and
means. President Denny, of Wash-
ington and Lee, will be in hand, and
will present the matter to the gath-
ering. The other resident member of
the board of visitors, Mr. John S.
Munce, will be present. Dr. G. H. Denny,
of the Richmond Alumni Associa-
tion, and Mr. John S. Harwood, of
this city, will also be present. The
meeting will be held in the hall of the
Chamber of Commerce, and will be
open to all.

It is believed by the committee that
the world at large is coming to a real-
ization of the character of Lee, and
that the establishment of a chair of
American history in the old institu-
tion over which he presided would be
in the nature of a national recognition
of the later years of his life. They
declare that the time has now come
when the South in expressing its re-
verence for Lee should also express
a hero too large for any one State or
section, a man whose genius was Amer-
ican, whose life was American, and
whose death was American. The fund
for the establishment of this chair would
be the national or international
contribution, as admirers of Lee in
England and on the Continent have
expressed their approval and their
desire to participate. The fund will
be in the nature of a tax on any
locality, or any people, but will be
the grateful tribute of a united people
to the sterling qualities of one of the
greatest of Americans.

Particular interest attaches to this
ordinance in that it indicates a decision
on the part of the Interstate Commerce
Commission, which we desire
with regard to this matter, the mer-
chants and manufacturers of this coun-
try will continue to be nothing more
than puppets in the hands of the rail-
roads, and it would be far better for us
to discontinue our business altogether
than to continue to suffer the intoler-
able conditions."

(Continued on Twelfth Page.)

JAMES AND PHIL. STROTHER, DEFENDANTS IN NOTED CASE, THEIR COUNSEL AND THE SHENANDOAH JURY



WALL STREET IS LOOKING BLUE

Stocks Closed Yesterday Way
Down Below the Closing
Prices of Wednesday.

READING LED THE SLUMP

NEW YORK, March 7.—The excite-
ment in financial circles, caused by
the heavy buying in Reading yesterday,
said to be for control of the property, died
out to-day, and the stock market re-
sumed its generally weak tone. No
plan of the Reading incident was
obtainable officially to-day, but the de-
tails of the transaction, which were
generally accepted in Wall Street and
speculators were more inclined to the
opinion that the heavy buying was for
the account of H. C. Frick. It has been
reported for some time that Mr. Frick
sold out a considerable portion of his
holdings around 150, and it was held to
be natural that he should take back his
stock at the low prices of the past
week. It was noticed also that 125
seemed to be the price limit at which
the heavy purchases were made yester-
day, and this fact was used as an
argument against the reports that stock
was being taken for control. In the con-
text for Northern Pacific the shares were
bought practically without regard to the
price. Readings opened to-day at 122, or
2 1/2 points lower than last night, the
highest was 124 3/8; the lowest 115 3/4,
and the last sale was made at 119. The
sales were 231,000 shares. Yesterday
726,500 shares changed hands.

The closing tone of the market was
very weak with the more active shares,
showing the following declines from yester-
day's last prices: Reading, 5 3/8;
Louisville and Nashville, 5; Union Pac-
ific, 1 5/8; St. Paul, 1 5/8; Great North-
ern, 1 5/8; Chesapeake and Ohio, 1 3/4;
and New York Central, 1 3/4.

There was none of the exciting trading
of yesterday during to-day's session.
The total sales for the day were 1,400,
700 shares, against more than 2,000,000
yesterday.

AMERICAN ARTIST
COMMITTS SUICIDE

PARIS, March 7.—Mrs. Natalie Dole
Latham, who was a Miss Lockwood,
committed suicide to-day by shooting.
Mrs. Latham was an American, and
was known here and in New York as
a portrait-painter.

Mrs. Latham killed herself in her
apartment in the Rue Vite. She fired
one shot from a five-chambered
revolver into the region of the heart,
which caused instant death.

A person, whose name the authori-
ties will not divulge, and who, it is
believed, had been sitting for a por-
trait by Mrs. Latham, had just left
the studio when the shot was fired. The
person heard the shot from the stairs
and returned at once to the apartment,
accompanied by a policeman. Mrs. Latham
was found fully dressed, lying across
a bed. She was dead. A small stream
of blood was issuing from her breast.

Upon a desk near at hand was a note
which said: "I do not accuse any
one of my trouble. I take my life
voluntarily. I desire to be cremated.
Inform my father and friends."

Mrs. Latham had lived for nearly two
years in Paris, and was well known in
society, where her musical and artistic
talents were greatly appreciated.

DELMAS DECIDES TO "REST" CASE

Takes Jerome by Surprise When Decision Is Announced—
Mrs. Thaw's Story Was Climax—Prisoner and His
Counsel Fearful Regarding Lunacy Commission.

NEW YORK, March 7.—There was
another quick turn of the cards in the
trial of Harry K. Thaw late to-day,
when the defense announced that it
had concluded to rest its case.

It was nearly 6 o'clock when Delmas
M. Delmas, chief of the Thaw coun-
sel, called District Attorney Jerome
on the telephone and made the an-
nouncement.

The district attorney was perhaps
the most surprised man in New York,
for it had been understood that when
Justice Fitzgerald resumed the bench
Friday morning at 10:30, the Thaw
attorneys would call one or two alien-
ists.

Court will assemble to-morrow, as
planned, but what will be done is a
question much discussed to-night. Mr.
Delmas will make the simple announce-
ment, "The defense rests."

It will then be the duty of the dis-
trict attorney to take up the rebuttal,
and it was generally rumored to-night
that after a brief session adjourn-
ment will be asked and granted until
Monday, that Mr. Jerome may mature
his plans.

The sudden decision of the defense
came after a conference of Thaw's
lawyers in Mr. Delmas's office late this
afternoon.

Jerome May Ask Adjournment.

Mr. Jerome's move in the morning
is awaited with much interest. The
general supposition is, however, that
adjournment will be taken. It was
understood to-night that the defense
will attempt to conclude its cross-
examination speedily, dealing very
briefly with the alienists. How long
Mr. Jerome will take on rebuttal is
another question of importance. The
case may close with this rebuttal, al-
though the defense has a chance for
survival.

On good authority it was said that
Delmas would sum up for Thaw. This,
too, has been a question under dis-
cussion.

It was an evening of activity in the
district attorney's office. Assistant
District Attorney Nott was called in
for the first time since the opening of
the trial, and with his chief and As-
sistant District Attorney Garvan, ex-
amined witnesses until a late hour.

Mrs. Thaw's Evidence the Climax.

The climax of the defense was with
the testimony of Mrs. William M.
Thaw, mother of the defendant, and it
was said that at to-day's conference
it was decided that no better climax
could have been reached by the de-
fense.

Several of Thaw's attorneys visited
him in the Tombs to-day, and he was
notified of their decision, and con-
curred.

The question of a lunacy commission
looms prominently still. Mr. Jerome
asked for the appointment of such a
commission at any time, and this may
halt proceedings. Thaw's lawyers and
the defendant himself, it is said, have
more fear of a suspension of the trial
in favor of a commission than a ver-
dict by the present jury. The defense
is prepared to fight such an appoint-
ment, however. Mrs. Harry Thaw vis-
ited her husband early to-day, and re-
mained a long while. She seemed
bright and cheerful.

Mrs. William Thaw and her daugh-
ters, the Countess of Yarmouth and

COUSIN OF THAW INJURED BY WAGON

Driver Ran Over the Woman.
Crowd, Excited, Talked
of Lynching.

HOT SPRINGS, ARK., March 7.—Mrs.
R. H. Thaw, of St. Louis, Mo., second
cousin of Harry K. Thaw, was run over
last night on Central Avenue by a wagon
driven by a man named Snyder. Mrs.
Thaw was taken to a hospital, and is in
an extremely serious condition.

After the occurrence there was great
excitement among the people who had
witnessed it. They believed that the ac-
cident could have been avoided by the
driver, and his attempt to escape in-
creased their anger. There was much
talk of a lynching.

JEROME WILL TRY
CASE ON ITS MERITS

Will Not Ask for Lunacy Com-
mission to Pass on Thaw's
Sanity.

NEW YORK, March 7.—The decision
of Harry Thaw's lawyers to close
their case to-morrow surprised no one
more than it did District Attorney
Jerome.

"I will not be able to tell what action
I will take to-morrow," he said, "until
I hear in open court the word that the
defense has finished. I will not be sure
of anything until I hear the statement
in open court."

"Will you go to the jury with the
case, or will you ask for a commission
in lunacy?"

"On the evidence as it now stands
I will certainly go to the jury," replied
the district attorney. "If there is
nothing between society and any one
who wishes to attack it but a 'brain
storm,' we had better go back to the
days of the frontier and every man
take out a pistol permit."

CALLED MAN TO DOOR
AND SHOT HIM DOWN

BUFFALO, N. Y., March 7.—Two un-
known men called at Alexander Young's
halfway house, in Ebenezer, early to-
day, and when the proprietor came to
the door one of the men opened fire
with a revolver. One of the shots
took effect in Young's side and he sank
to the floor. The men ran away to the
darkness.

Both the West Seneca and Buffalo
police are working on the case. Mr.
Young, it is said, was alive this morn-
ing, but all communication with the
house by telephone is cut off, and the
police have taken charge of the premises.
One of the women in the house, be-
lieved to be Mrs. Young, is unconscious
from the shock she suffered.

This is the second attempt that has
been made on the life of Mr. Young
within a year. No details of the affair
have been given out.

"Not Guilty," Says Schmitz.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., March 7.—
Max Schmitz appeared before Judge
Dunn to-day and pleaded not guilty to
the charge of extortion, preferred against
him by the grand jury. By agreement
next Monday was set for the trial.

PRESIDENT'S SON IN GRAVE DANGER

Archie Roosevelt, III With Diphe-
theria, Has a Sudden Turn
for the Worse.

HAS EVEN CHANCE FOR LIFE

WASHINGTON, March 7.—Archie
Roosevelt, the President's third son,
who has been suffering from diphthe-
ria since last Friday, had a turn for
the worse to-day, and to-night,
though he has rallied somewhat, his
condition is serious. Dr. Alexander
Lambert, of New York, in response to
a telegram from President Roosevelt,
arrived in Washington at 9 o'clock to-
night and has taken charge of the case.
Dr. Rixey, Kennedy and Bryant
were holding a consultation when Dr.
Lambert arrived at the White House.
Just previous to his coming further
antitoxin was injected into the pa-
tient. The President, Mrs. Roosevelt
and Miss Ethel Roosevelt had been at
Archie's bedside for several hours.

Dr. Braisted and Pryor left the
White House at 3:55. They stated
that Archie's vitality holds out
through the night there is an even
chance for his recovery.

At 11 o'clock to-night it was an-
nounced that Mrs. Lambert and Ken-
nedy would spend the night at Ar-
chie's bedside.

School Closes.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 7.—
The Friends' Select School, which Ar-
chie Roosevelt had been attending be-
fore his illness, was closed to-day, on
account of another pupil having con-
tracted diphtheria.

Still in Serious Condition.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 7.—At
1:30 A. M. word from Dr. Lambert
that Archie's condition is still in a
serious condition. There has been
no change.

FREIGHT TRAIN KILLS WORKMEN

Four Greeks Employed on Tide-
water Road Crushed to
Death.

ROANOKE, VA., March 7.—Four
Greeks, employed on the Tidewater
railroad construction work, were to-
day struck by a Norfolk and Western
freight train near Roanoke, and killed.
The dead:

Marcus Lazouler, Danayetes Cartel-
anov, Demeter Asmus, Dugeler
Sichon.

The men stopped from one track onto
another directly in front of an on-
coming train.

FATHER ASKS JURY TO ACQUIT SON'S SLAYER

NEW YORK, March 7.—Adam Brown
was exonerated to-day by the coroner's
jury that investigated the death of John
A. Mason, who died as a result of a blow
received while boxing with Brown at St.
Bartholomew Athletic Club-rooms on
the night of February 1st.

One of the witnesses at the inquest was
Richard F. Mason, father of the dead
boy. He addressed the coroner's jury,
saying that he was present at the bout
and was satisfied that the blow that
killed his son was an accidental one.
The father asked the jury to return a
verdict to that effect.

STROTHERS NOT GUILTY, SAYS A VIRGINIA JURY

Most Affecting Scene In
Court When Verdict
Is Announced.

DEFENDANTS ARE
GIVEN OVATION

Crowds Gather Around Them and
Heap Congratulations Upon
Them and Judge Harri-
son Warmly Com-
mends Jury for
Verdict.

BY WALTER EDWARD HARRIS,
CULPEPER, VA., March 7.—James
and Philip Strother are free men to-
night, after having been on trial ten
days for the murder of their brother-
in-law, William F. Bywaters, on the
15th of last December. The verdict
was returned a few minutes after 11
o'clock this morning. Friends of the
defendants started to cheer when the
finding of the jury was announced, but
were immediately checked by Judge
Harrison and the sheriff. But in dis-
charging the jury, the judge, who has
presided in this case with a fair-
ness and ability which have won the
admiration of the bar and the
spectator, manifested his entire ap-
proval of their verdict, and in no un-
certain language bade them rest as-
sured that their consciences should
approve what they had done.

The scene when the judge was mak-
ing his statement commending the
jurors for their verdict was one of the
most affecting ever witnessed in a
courtroom in Virginia. The strong
face of His Honor was distorted with
emotion, and the big tears were trick-
ling down his cheeks. Immediately
in front of him Mrs. James Strother,
wife of one of the defendants, was
lying across her husband's knees, hav-
ing yielded to the terrible strain, her
form quivering with emotion.

Jury Deeply Affected.

James Strother was sitting with his
head bowed, tears in his eyes. His
brother was standing by his side, and
stern, not a trace of emotion appar-
ent in his countenance. Every member
of the jury was weeping, or at least the
tears standing in his eyes.

Counsel for the defense and the close
friends of the brothers, who have
faithfully stood by them from the be-
ginning, waited until the wife should
have recovered her control before they
surged forward to express their pleas-
ure at the verdict. Counsel for the
prosecution sat motionless, their heads
bowed.

Judge Harrison, the instant he had
sharply reprimanded those who start-
ed to cheer the verdict, leant forward,
and, placing his arms on the rail
in front of him, addressed the jury.
His voice quivered with emotion, and
several times it broke, and he was
forced to pause until he could regain
his control. He said:

Gentlemen of the jury, you have
now returned a verdict which is
almost from your homes, and you
daily avocations in obedience to
the discharge of duty which your
State has imposed upon you. You
have borne every attendant dis-
comfort with patience and with-
out complaint, and your conduct in
court and on the bench has been of
the highest standard of excellence. I
have been proud of the fact that
you have come from a county in
my jurisdiction.

I have returned to the law that I have
given you for your guidance, and
I have taken the instruction most
likely to give rise to debate, word
for word from an instruction which
our highest court sanctioned.

Your verdict, too, gentlemen,
has followed the precedent of
American juries generally, so far
as they have come under my ob-
servation. Law books may lay
down correct doctrine, but Ameri-
can juries will not punish a man
who kills another, if that other,
by aggravating and damnable
treachery, invades the sanctity of
his home circle and destroys its
peace.

You have listened to this evi-
dence with scrupulous care, you
have been assisted by able and elo-
quent representatives of the Com-
monwealth and defense to reach
a righteous verdict. I know you
to be men of high character and
high courage, and I am confident
that in accordance with the dictates
of your conscience, this is all the
court is satisfied.

"I hope you will have a pleasant
return to your homes and find all
well."

No Dry Eyes.

One could scarcely behold a dry eye
when the judge ceased. Impressive as
was the verdict of the twelve men,
which meant life and liberty to the two young
fellows at the bar of justice, far more
impressive were the solemn words of
the court, commending the jury for a
verdict acquitting one of the worst
men who had taken the life of the betrayer
of their sister's honor.

When the judge concluded his remarks
the spectators crowded about James
and Philip and shook their hands. Some
of them hugged the boys and tears of joy
flowed from many an eye not used to
weeping. But both the young men and
Mrs. Strother hastened to shake each
jurymen by the hand and thank him
for their verdict. James and his wife
went up to the bench and shook hands
with Judge Harrison, who even then
scarcely regained his self-control. In
fact, almost everybody in the courtroom
shook hands with the defendants and
Mrs. Strother and with the jurymen.
Only a few of the friends of the dead
man were in court to-day when the ver-
dict was announced.

The number awaiting admission when
the hour of 9:30 arrived was surprisingly
small, a fact which may have indicated
that the great press of people yesterday
was due rather to a desire to hear the